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ABSTRACT

This book defines a variety of terms from Native American history and represents a compendium of vocabulary, people, places, and events. The alphabetized, illustrated text includes names for Indian objects such as pirogues, prayer sticks, kayaks, dumas, and medicine bundles; methods of doing things, such as stone boiling, diapering babies, healing a sunburn, and fletching arrows; and names of significant people, places, and events, such as Bright Eyes, Datsolali, and Wounded Knee. Each entry begins with the term as most commonly designated and, in most instances, a pronunciation guide and variations of form or spelling. Dates, time periods, and places are noted when applicable, followed by definitions, examples, and illustrative sentences denoting how the term might be used in actual conversation, speeches, letters, journal entries, songs, prayers, or myths. Numerous cross-references provide additional or corroborating information. Unique features of the book are its wide coverage of tribes; emphasis on home, family, and community activities and interests; inclusion of little-known females as a balance to the many well-known males; consideration of the use of nature for medicines, food, and animistic worship; discussions of connections among Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics; and de-emphasis of militarism. Includes a guide to vowel sounds, a list of sources, a subject index, a general index, and many illustrations. (LP)

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